

and plan of those in whose name we have been authorised to address you. These matters are merely referred to to show the ability of the State, and the ample means she has to sustain that credit which it is proposed to bring into market.

Having shown the condition of the State, the necessity and demand for a change, and the means for effecting it, your memorialists are brought to the interesting question, as to what is best to be done? In answer to that question, we have to present to you that plan or system which was the result of the anxious deliberations of those in whose behalf this memorial is presented. No higher evidence could be given of the actual wants of our people, and of the demand and necessity for something to be done, than in the voluntary congregation of that assembly, whose wishes and opinions we have been directed to make known. A body comprising near 200 delegates, selected from forty counties, men of character, of intelligence, and of wealth, voluntarily obeying the call of their country, argues a deep distress in the community, and a loud demand for its remedy. The strifes and struggles of party have been silenced, and the voice of patriotism alone has been heard, invoking you to action. It is the first and dearest privilege we enjoy as a free people, that by the fundamental principles of our government, every plan for changing our condition and promoting our happiness and prosperity, both in choice and execution, must originate with or be sanctioned by the people. The plan, then, which we have the honor to present, originated with a large portion of the people, and claims your most liberal and attentive examination. Your memorialists shew, that after a week of earnest and anxious consideration, the Convention agreed upon a plan which is embodied in a series of resolutions herewith submitted, and annexed to this memorial. The Convention came to the conclusion, with great unanimity, that all the works mentioned in said resolutions were of a great and useful character, and constitute a system of improvements which, if begun and successfully prosecuted, would eminently conduce to the prosperity of the state, both as increasing the common wealth and in elevating and confirming its moral and political character.

Of the merits of the general system recommended, it is proper to say, whilst there existed a difference of opinion as to the grade or class of the respective works, yet there was none as to their eminent utility and meritorious claim to the aid and patronage of the Legislature. But the Convention was admonished, as all must be, by past experience, that the works proposed must be brought within the available means of the State, or all would fail. Hence the necessity and expediency of a classification. In this, too, they were following the example of the national Legislature, in their works of Harbors and Fortifications. What the nation could not accomplish with its ample resources, it was not to be expected a single State could effect, with its limited means, though confined to works within her own borders. Here then collision begins, here is the